

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAI-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 NIC-01 /072 W

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R 311814Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3042

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, BE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF BELGIAN OFFICIALS TO CHINA

REF: HONG KONG 200 (NOTAL)

1. OFFICIAL VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS TO CHINA IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN APRIL 20 AND WILL LAST ABOUT ONE WEEK. TINDEMANS WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE. VISIT WILL BE PRECEDED BY BELGIAN TRADE EXHIBITION WHICH OPENS IN CHINA ABOUT APRIL 8. MICHEL TOUSSAINT, MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, AND PRINCE ALBERT (BROTHER AND HEIR APPARENT TO KING BAUDOUIN), IN HIS CAPACITY AS HONORARY PRESIDENT OF BELGIAN OFFICE OF EXTERNAL COMMERCE, ARE SCHEDULED TO ATTEND OPENING OF EXHIBITION.

2. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM FOREIGN MINISTER'S CHEF DE CABINET (VAN BELLINGHEN) THAT, IN SCHEDULING CHINA VISIT, TINDEMANS IS PICKING UP INVITATION ORIGINALLY EXTENDED TO FORMER SOCIALIST PRIMEMINISTER LEBURTON, WHOM TINDEMANS (A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOCIAL CHRISTIAN) SUCCEEDED IN APRIL, 1974. BELGIANS ASKED

CHINESE AMBASSADOR WHETHER INVITATION HAD BEEN INTENDED FOR LEBURTON PERSONALLY OR AS INCUMBENT PRIME MINISTER. AFTER CHECKING WITH PEKING, AMBASSADOR SAID CHINESE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN HAVING BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER VISIT. VAN BELLINGHEN SAID CHINESE SCHEDULED VISIT AFTER CLOSE OF BELGIAN TRADE EXHIBITION TO MAKE CLEAR THAT VISIT IS BEING MADE FOR POLITICAL RATHER THAN COMMERCIAL REASONS.

3. IT IS WORTH NOTING ALSO THAT DURING CONVERSAIATIONS ON VISIT CHINESE AMBASSADOR MAKE POINT OF COMMENTING ON IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING NATO STRONG. RENNER

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